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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women: implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern

Statement submitted by HelpAge International, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Soroptimist International and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; All India Women's Conference, Associated Country Women of the World, Baha'i International Community, Italian Centre of Solidarity, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Council of Jewish Women, International Council on Alcohol and Addictions, International Federation for Home Economics, International Federation of University Women, Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for International and Cultural Affairs - International Movement of Catholic Students), Socialist International Women, Women's International Zionist Organisation and World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and European Union of Women, International Inner Wheel and International Round Table for the Advancement of Counselling, non-governmental organizations on the Roster

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The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 26 July 1996.

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We, the above-named international non-governmental organizations and members of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women,

Taking into account the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 1949, and its Additional Protocols, of 1977, as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, in 1993,

Urge that measures of immediate assistance be taken for all victims of rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy and prostitution, and

Demand adequate female representation on the judicial bodies, in addition to medical care and psychological support by female medical personnel and women counsellors;

Reaffirming the strategic objectives formulated at the World Conference on Human Rights;

Insist on maintaining that the human rights of women and the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights, and

Expect the human rights of women to be integrated, implemented and enforced by national legislations in order to secure once and for all women's *de jure* and de facto equality;

Referring to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Call for equal rights for the girl child in order to prevent specific discrimination in the areas of health care, physical integrity, socialization and education, and

Remind Governments of their obligation to protect and promote the girl child in all the above-mentioned areas;

Recalling the objectives of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Condemn any form of physical, sexual or psychological violence within the family or in the work place, and

Demand severe punishment of perpetrators in cases of trafficking and forced prostitution.